

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /119 W

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R 091730Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4846

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 5548

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR UR

SUBJ: SOVIET AMBASSADOR MOVEMENTS

GENEVA FOR HARTMAN

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET AMBASSADOR YEZHOF MET AUGUST 4 WITH FM MAVROS AND AUGUST 7 WITH PM CARAMANLIS. BOTH MEETINGS WERE REPRESENTED AS PRO FORMA WITH YEZHOF EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS AND GIVING THE USUAL SOVIET LINE ON CYPRIOT INDEPENDENCE. THE ATHENIAN PRESS HAS, NONETHELESS, DRAMATIZED THE HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS, AND THE LEFTIST PRESS HAS CREATED THE ILLUSION OF A NEW PRO-HELLENIC CAST IN SOVIET POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. GOG MADE NO COMMENT ON SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH MAVROS. AFTER YEZHOF SAW PM PERFUNCTORY ATHENS NEWS AGENCY COMMENT WAS THAT YEZHOF "CONGRATULATED HIM (CARAMANLIS) ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. THE MEETING LASTED FORTY-FIVE MINUTES AND CENTERED
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ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. REPORTS SAY

THAT THE CYPRUS ISSUE WAS ALSO RAISED."

3. BRITISH AMBASSADOR GAVE AMBASSADOR ACCOUNT OF YEZHOV'S CONVERSATION WITH FM MAVROS WHICH LATTER CHARACTERIZED AS RESTATEMENT OF SOVIET POLICY. AMB YEZHOV STRESSED NECESSITY FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF SCRES 353, RESTORATION OF MAKARIOS, WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES IN CYPRUS AND POSSIBLE ROLE FOR SOVIET OBSERVER AT GENEVA. HE ARGUED THAT GOG HAD ALREADY CONCEDED TOO MUCH AT GENEVA, WHICH MAVROS REPORTEDLY REBUTTED ALONG WITH OTHER POINTS MADE BY YEZHOV. MAVROS ALSO MADE POINT THAT FUTURE OF MAKARIOS WAS MATTER FOR CYPRIOT PEOPLE ALONE TO DETERMINE. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN GOT SIMILAR RUNDOWN FROM MAVROS WHO SEEMS TO HAVE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF SOVIET POTENTIAL FOR TROUBLE-MAKING, WHETHER IN GENEVA OR IN SC IN NEW YORK.

4. ALL DAILIES GAVE FRONTPAGE COVERAGE TO YEZHOV'S CALLS BUT ONLY LEFT-OF-CENTER PRESS SLANTED COVERAGE TO CREATE IMPRESSION OF NEW AND FRIENDLY RUSSIAN OVERTURES TO GOG. THE NEWLY REBORN AVQHI, OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF EDA, HEADLINED AUGUST 4: "AS THE FRONTS ARE STIFFENING, STRONG COMMENTS CAUSED BY DEMARCHE OF THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR." ALTHOUGH AVQHI REVEALED NOTHING ABOUT SUBSTANCE MAVROS-YEZHOV CONVERSATION, IT SPECULATED THAT HE CLARIFIED SOVIET POLICY ON CYPRUS WHICH WOULD CAUSE GOG TO PLACE HIGHER VALUE ON SOVIET ASSISTANCE IN ACHIEVING EVENTUAL CYPRUS SOLUTION. ON AUGUST 7, AVQHI HEREALDED PENDING MEETING OF CARAMANLIS WITH YEZHOV WITH MAJOR HEADLINE, "TO SAVE THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF ISLAND - SOVIET INTERVENTION IN THE CYPRUS PROBLEM." ATHINAIKI SAME DAY CARRIED UNSUBSTANTIATED HEADLINE, "IN CASE OF TURKISH ATTACK AGAINST GREECE, SOVIET MILITARY AID GREECE AND CITED "DEUTSCHE WELLE". TA NEA HAS ALSO GONE OUT OF WAY TO EMPHASIZE THAT RUSSIANS HAVE TAKEN NEW DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES AND DELIVERED SUBSTANTIVE DEMARCHE IN ATHENS. TASCA

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